

# THE KERLAN COLLECTION

## Children's Literature Research Collections

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER | CO-SPONSORED BY THE KERLAN FRIENDS AND THE CLRC



## The 2014 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture Andrea Davis Pinkney: Rejoice the Legacy!

Andrea Davis Pinkney delivered the 2014 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture, titled "Rejoice the Legacy!," on May 3, 2014, at the University of Minnesota Libraries. The event, hosted by the Children's Literature Research Collections, was sold out and attended by over 300 people from around the country. The following reflection is by Jennifer Brown who was a member of the 2014 Arbuthnot planning committee. (It first appeared on the website *Shelf Awareness*.) We are reprinting it with permission.

Andrea Davis Pinkney's presentation begins in darkness. A lone trumpet's wail breaks the silence with "Late One Night" from George C. Wolfe's *Harlem Song*. On a large projection screen, images in black and white appear: the Middle Passage, sharecroppers, soldiers, baseball players, children in churches, children in schools, students at lunch counters, the Rex Theatre for Colored People, the Apollo and the Cotton Club,



everyday people and famous people. Ruby Bridges and the Little Rock Nine, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., Lyndon Baines Johnson, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Zora Neale Hurston and Billy Holiday. Andrea Davis Pinkney enters Willey Hall auditorium clapping in rhythm. The sold-out crowd claps with her. "What does

*Andrea Davis Pinkney cont. on page 3*



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The Children's Literature Research Collection's Kerlan Collection is an internationally recognized center of research in the field of children's literature. The Collection contains original materials, including manuscripts, artwork, galleys, and color proofs for more than 18,000 children's books. These materials represent eight decades of American children's books and selected titles published in other countries. The Kerlan Collection also includes more than 110,000 children's books.

The Fall 2014 newsletter is co-sponsored by the Kerlan Friends and the CLRC.

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## From the Curator's Desk

It has been a busy time here at the Children's Literature Research Collections. The Arbuthnot Lecture with Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney was a sold out event with audience members arriving from all over the nation.



"Rejoice the Legacy!" exhibit

The work of the CLRC and the Kerlan would not be possible without the generous donations of our Kerlan Friends. A significant donation by Mrs. Virginia G. Puzak allowed us to hire an on-line exhibit designer to create the digital exhibit, "Rejoice the Legacy!" that accompanied the physical exhibit in the Andersen Library Gallery (<http://gallery.lib.umn.edu/exhibits/show/pinkney>). We enjoyed class visits from around the region and now anyone with computer access can enjoy this work and a glimpse into the creative process of picture book making.

Technology played a significant role in another exciting event as we partnered with the Library of Congress and the Children's Book Council to Skype an author's visit to twelve classrooms around the world with the United States Ambassador for Children's Literature, Kate DiCamillo.



Lisa Von Drasek and Kate DiCamillo (left). Katherine Queen (right).

Barrow Elementary student Katherine Queen was able to ask author Kate DiCamillo a question when Barrow

second graders got to talk with the award-winning author via Skype Wednesday (Lee Shearer/Staff). "I liked it because I got to see an author I love," said Isabelle Boyd. "It was like really special to me to talk with someone I would probably never meet" (Barrow Elementary, Athens, Georgia).

In a report from Kate Dietrick, Manager of Central Processing in Archives and Special Collections, she noted that the Kerlan Collection processed 86 collections over the past fiscal year (including both new collections and reprocessing existing collections). It is a joy to know these materials are available for visitors to access for their research.

Finally, a thank you to the tireless work of the Kerlan Friends Board who say "yes" and support the work of the Kerlan by giving generously of their time and expertise.



## “What does one wear to deliver the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture?”

– Andrea Pinkney

one wear to deliver the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture?” Andrea Davis Pinkney begins. Her glorious garnet-colored knee-length jacket fits her like a glove and perfectly matches her ruby-red slippers with a bit of heel to augment her height, just shy of 5 feet. As she describes consulting her “fashionista” teenage daughter, the light mood allows everyone to settle into their seats following the powerful images and soulful voices of the overture.

The woman standing before us, award-winning author and editor of award-winning books, confesses she’d struggled to read. Her mother, an English teacher and the first woman in her family to go to college, would not give up on her daughter, Rae, as her family and friends called her. A picture of Rae as a smiling girl of perhaps seven appears on the projection screen. A librarian matched her with the right book, *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss. Worlds opened up to her. She dreamed of emulating John Boy Walton and Mary Richards, becoming a writer and a journalist, moving to the city and having a career and a best friend like Rhoda Morgenstern. She carried notebooks with her wherever she went recording all the things grown-ups say. An array of colorful spiral-bound notebooks appears on the screen.

Andrea Davis Pinkney puts on a hat, plays the part of a male peer: “Hey, Rae, whatcha got in that notebook?” (Takes the hat off, as Rae) “Nothin.’” (Hat back on) “Well let me see the nothin’ in your notebook.”



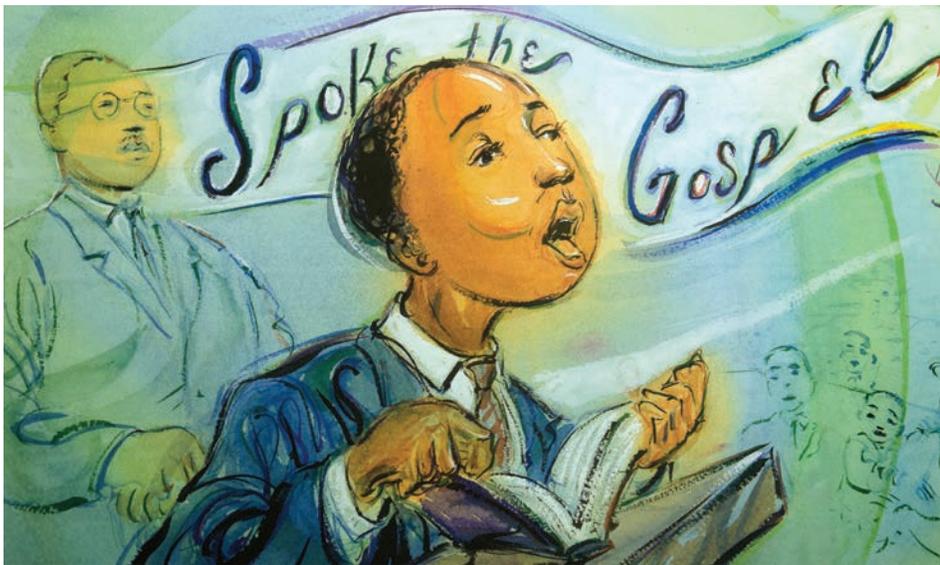
Her mother continued to encourage her, “Let’s start at the beginning of those who wrote and spoke.” Pinkney quotes the words of Frederick Douglass, “The more I read, the more I was led,” from his *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave, Written by Himself*, and one of the 10 men featured in her book *Hand in Hand*. She added, “I was granted the freedom to read and go anywhere I wished.” She takes us on a journey down what she calls “the Fine Black Line,” the legacy of African American storytelling: The rhythms of talking drums, following the drinking gourd, The Renaissance in Harlem. She sings a phrase from “Wade in the Water” and “We Shall Overcome.” She connects to Langston Hughes, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Richard Wright, and Zora Neale Hurston—especially, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me.”

“What if May Hill Arbuthnot ran into Zora Neale Hurston at a Columbia University reunion?” Pinkney wonders. They were students on the campus at around the same time. Two side-by-side, black-and-white photos of the women appear on the projection screen. Pinkney pulls up her red coat’s collar, leans into her words, “Hey, May!” Then puts her collar down, stands primly, even stiffly, “Hello, Zora.” Pinkney moves between the two women as they catch up on their accomplishments. With affection, admiration and humor Pinkney contrasts their differing styles.

In journalism school at Syracuse University, “My habit of carrying notebooks was affirmed,” Pinkney joked. There she met John Keats (named after the poet), who taught

Andrea Davis Pinkney cont. on page 4





her, “Writers write no matter what,” and also, “When you share your writing, it may help someone, touch someone, or change someone.”

Few have done more to further “the Fine Black Line” than Andrea Davis Pinkney. First as a senior editor at *Essence* magazine, then as a writer and editor of children’s books, she has shown children—and adults—that they come from a lineage of writers, artists and citizens capable of changing the world.

At *Essence*, her charge was to assemble a round-up of books for and about African American children. Pinkney discovered Virginia Hamilton, Eloise Greenfield,

Patricia McKissack, Mildred Taylor and Walter Dean Myers. She began to “nag” her then-boyfriend, artist Brian Pinkney, who urged *her* to write the books. She was hired as a children’s book editor, later invited to launch the Jump at the Sun imprint at Disney. There she bought a first novel by Sharon Flake, *The Skin I’m In*, “a modern version of ‘How It Feels to Be Colored Me,’” as Pinkney referred to it. Still, she heard the voice of her boss at *Essence*: “Remember your charge.”

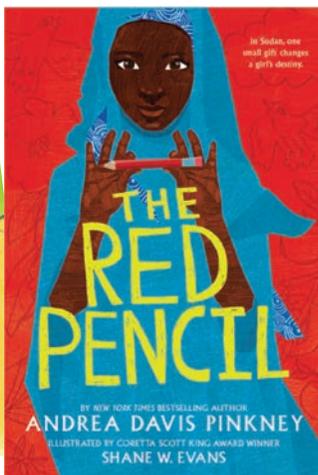
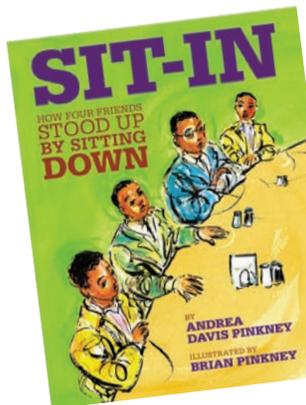
“How could I approach the topic of lynching for young people?” Pinkney asked herself. Marilyn Nelson would be the one who could do it. The day before

Thanksgiving, Pinkney invited Nelson into her office, screwed up her courage, and made her request. “I can’t do it,” Nelson replied. “It’s too sad.” But the following Monday, Pinkney found in her in-box a heroic crown of sonnets, *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Nelson still receives letters from middle school and high school students about the book, more so after the death of Trayvon Martin.

On the projection screen, two black-and-white photos appear: Trayvon Martin and Emmett Till. They lived 54 years apart. But “What if they attended Morehouse College together, and walked on a path to change, comfortable and casual,” Andrea Davis Pinkney asks. She removes her glorious garnet-colored jacket and ruby slippers and puts her arms through the sleeves of a dusky blue sweatshirt. She pulls up its hood: “Comfortable and casual, ready for study.” She turns her back to the audience. We sit alone in the silence with our thoughts. Uta Hagen in *Respect for Acting* wrote that the greatest achievement with an audience is the tears and the hush. Not the applause. We sit in the hush.

Andrea Davis Pinkney turns to us in her dusky blue hoodie and asks: “What does one wear to deliver the May Hill Arbutnot lecture?”

— Jennifer Brown



Andrea Davis Pinkney’s lecture can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/LC5y1RTGEZQ>

## Kerlan Friends President Update



Greetings Friends of the Children's Literature Research Collections:

Many of you are probably still

basking in the glow of the exciting events this spring at Andersen Library and the Children's Literature Research Collection. The Kerlan Award Luncheon celebrating the contributions of Linda Sue Park and Russell Freedman, the Naomi Chase Lecture presented by Jane Yolen, and the Arbuthnot Lecture presented by Andrea Davis Pinkney challenged us to celebrate children's literature and offered all of us ideas for becoming engaged. If you were unable to attend Andrea Davis Pinkney's Arbuthnot Lecture or view the exhibit, both can be accessed through the Children's Literature Research Collection's website ([www.lib.umn.edu/clrc](http://www.lib.umn.edu/clrc)). While you are there check out the *Alvin Ailey* digital portfolio.

With the warmth of summer upon us, plans for the fall is being made. On Wednesday, September 3, a launch party for University of Minnesota and Kerlan Board member, Julie Schumacher's new novel, *Dear Committee Members*, will be held in Andersen Library. Nancy Farmer will be presenting the Book Week speaker in October. A membership meeting of the Kerlan Friends is being planned for October, as well.

Please watch the website for additional news and resources. A hint: two new, downloadable portfolios/units on *Project Mulberry* by Linda Sue Park and *The Devil's Arithmetic* have been designed for teachers and librarians to use with students.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at other events at the Kerlan Collection.

Sincerely,  
Jean M. Stevenson  
President – Kerlan Friends Board

# Read this Book!



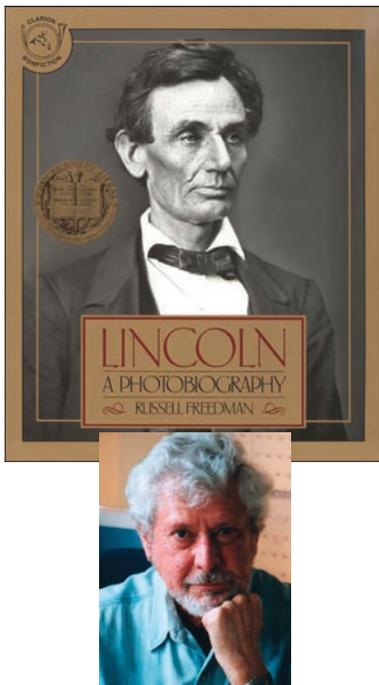
**"Read This Book!"** is a monthly video podcast produced by the University of Minnesota Libraries, which features book recommendations by Lisa Von Drasek, director of the Children's Literature Research Collections, Megan Kocher, curator of the Kirschner Cookbook Collection, and other U of M librarians.

The podcast is available on the Libraries news blog at [continuum.umn.edu/category/books/](http://continuum.umn.edu/category/books/), on iTunes, and on YouTube. Watch it!

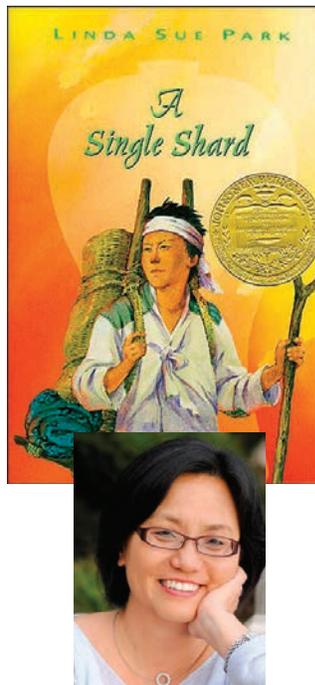


## 2014 Kerlan Award

On March 29th the Kerlan Award Committee honored authors Linda Sue Park and Russell Freedman at the 2014 Annual Kerlan Award Ceremony. Ms. Park attended the ceremony, while 2014 Newbery Medal winner Kate DiCamillo accepted and read a speech on behalf of Mr. Freedman. The Award is given in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation of the generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children's literature.



**Russell Freedman** is a distinguished biographer for young people. He has written almost fifty books on subjects including Crazy Horse, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martha Graham. He was awarded the Newbery Medal in 1988 for *Lincoln: A Photobiography*.



**Linda Sue Park** is an award-winning author of poetry, picture books, and novels for children and young adults. She received the Newbery Medal in 2002 for her novel *A Single Shard*. Many of her stories have helped bring a greater understanding of Korean history and diasporic culture to young readers.

## 2014 Hollinshead Fellowship



The CLRC recently awarded the 2014 Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fellowship, which supports travel and expenses for researchers to use Kerlan Collection materials, to Dr. JoAnn Conrad of California State University (CSU) East Bay. She will be visiting the CLRC this summer to research for a project titled "Émigré children's book illustrators and the shaping of an American childhood." Dr. Conrad plans on using collections including Gustaf Tenggren, Edgar and Ingri D'Aulaire, Maud and Miska Petersham, Tibor Gergely, Boris Artzybasheff, and Feodor Rojankovsky to study the backgrounds and influences of mid-century émigré illustrators, and how these are expressed in their work.

### Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fellowship

Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fund for Travel to the Kerlan Collection will be available for research study in 2015. Applicants may request up to \$1,500.

Send a letter with the proposed purpose, plan to use specific research materials (manuscripts and art), dates, and budget (including airfare and per diem) to Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fellowship, 113 Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55455.



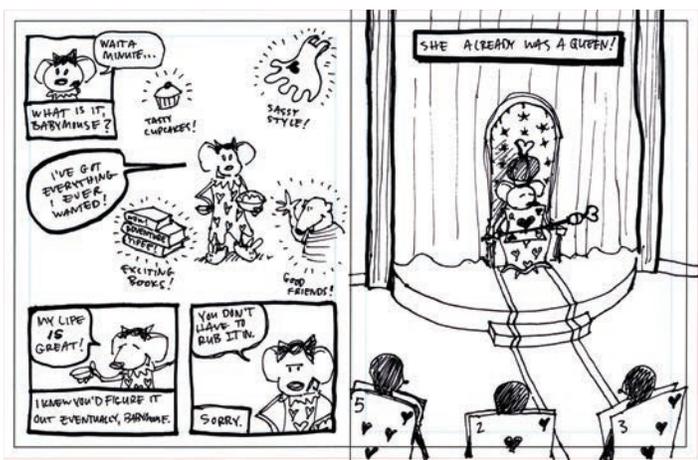
## Recent Acquisitions

**Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney:** After Andrea's powerful Arbuthnot lecture, she and Brian donated production materials for several titles. Andrea's donation included manuscripts for seven titles, including *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, while Brian's donation included process art for titles such as *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*, and two paintings from *Boycott Blues*.



*Boycott Blues*, donated by Brian Pinkney

**Jennifer and Matthew Holm:** Brother and sister team Jennifer and Matthew Holm have worked together to create the popular *Babymouse* and *Squish* series. Matthew donated production material for all their past titles in the two series, including sketches, storyboards, illustrations, and page proofs.



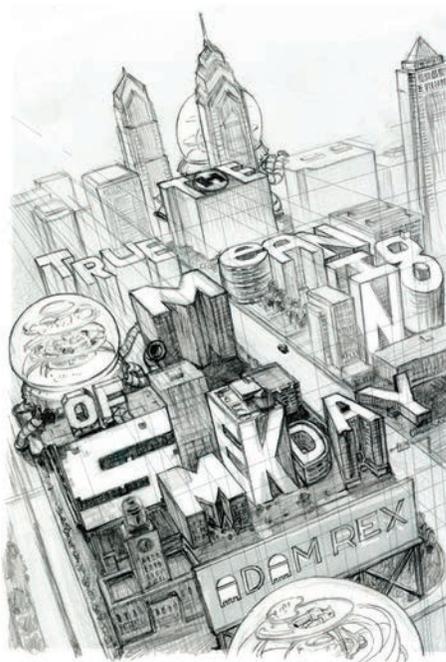
*Babymouse*, donated by Matthew Holm

**Melissa Sweet:** Known for her imaginative skill with collage art, illustrator Melissa Sweet donated her art and production materials for several titles, including *Balloons Over Broadway*.



*Balloons Over Broadway*, donated by Melissa Sweet

**Adam Rex:** Artist and author Adam Rex donated production materials for five titles, including drawings for *Chu's Day* by Neil Gaiman, as well as typescripts and other materials related to Rex's first novel, *The True-Meaning of Smekday*.



*True-Meaning of Smekday*, donated by Adam Rex



## Recent Acquisitions (cont.)

**Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith:** Writer Jon Scieszka and illustrator Lane Smith generously donated a dummy and typescripts for their classic children's book *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

**Kate DiCamillo:** Local author Kate DiCamillo continues to generously donate her manuscripts to the CLRC, including materials for the 2014 Newbery Award-winning book, *Flora and Ulysses*.

**David LaRochelle:** Local Minnesota author/illustrator David LaRochelle donated manuscripts, art, and other production materials for 26 titles, including his new award-winning book *Moo!*

**Jane Yolen:** Yolen, who spoke at this year's annual Chase Lecture in April, continues to donate to her already impressive collection housed at the CLRC. Recent donations include materials related to Yolen's first book, *Pirates in Petticoats*, published in 1963.

**Other notable acquisitions include material from:** John Coy, Phyllis Root, Donna Jo Napoli, James McMullan, Paul Janeczko, Steven Kroll, Justina Chen, Linda Sue Park, Nikki Grimes, Katherine Paterson, Emily Jenkins (E. Lockhart), Diana Cohn, Betsy Bowen, Yoko Mitsuhashi, Joyce Sidman, Caroline Arnold, Brock Cole, Roni Schotter, and Claudia Mills.

## What is a Kerlan Friend?

- to act as advocates for the Kerlan Collection and encourage appreciation for and the use and support of this unique and rare resource.
- to financially support special Kerlan projects, such as the creation of traveling author/illustrator kits for use in classrooms and to provide volunteers to create the kits.
- to raise funds with the sale of Kerlan notecards and other items and by functions such as auctions.
- to contribute and encourage gifts, endowments, and bequests to the Kerlan Collection.
- to help to acquire books and original materials for research and exhibits and to support Kerlan-sponsored and other children's book-related events.
- to sponsor an annual award for an outstanding research paper by a college student who uses original resources from the Kerlan Collection.
- to sponsor the annual Kerlan Award, given "in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection."

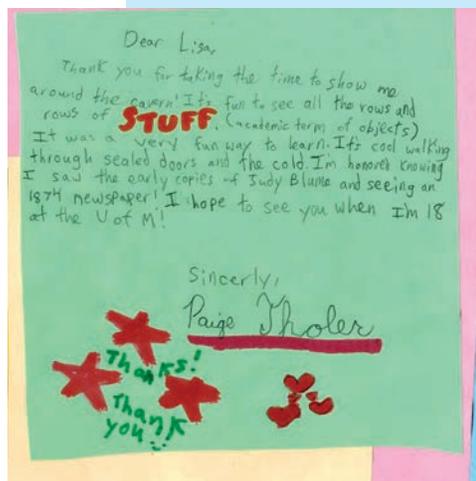
### How Do I Become a Kerlan Friend?

Becoming a Kerlan Friend requires an annual donation. There are four levels of membership, shown below.

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Student (full-time) | \$10    |
| Kerlan Friend       | \$25    |
| Kerlan Collector    | \$100   |
| Special Patron      | \$1,000 |

You may also purchase a gift membership for someone else.

If you would like to become a friend email your contact information to us at [asc-clrc@umn.edu](mailto:asc-clrc@umn.edu) or call 612-624-4576.



## Friends Board Reunion

Dedicated supporter and former Kerlan Friend's Board Member Norma Gaffron gathered a group of her fellow conspirators for a lunch and reminiscing at the Elmer L. Andersen Library on June 25, 2014.

Please contact Caitlin Marineau at [cmarinea@umn.edu](mailto:cmarinea@umn.edu) if you would like to be invited to future founding members' events.

### Former board members in attendance:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Karen Bihrlé      | Barbara Hanson |
| Sheila Fitzgerald | Marilyn Hobbs  |
| Norma Gaffron     | Nancy Hof      |
| Helen George      | Dianne Monson  |
| Irvyn Gilbertson  | Darlys Nelson  |
| Bette Peltola     |                |

*The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward. Publisher: Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.; Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1952.



## News

### *At the Beach* by Anne Rockwell

One of the essential responsibilities of the Kerlan Collection is the preserving of original children's book art. We loan these original sets to publisher's for reimagining and reprints.

This year four titles have been placed back in print with stunning reimagining, including Anne Rockwell's *At The Beach*.



### Curator Lisa Von Drasek

Curator Lisa Von Drasek taking a break at the International Federation of Library Association Youth Services pre-conference in Bangkok, Thailand to read aloud the *Rocket Learns to Read* e-book to a young attendee from Japan.



Nancy Garden, beloved children’s and YA author, passed away on June 23. The Kerlan Collection holds many of Garden’s manuscripts and production materials. We asked Lisa Vecoli, curator of the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies, here at the University of Minnesota Archives and Special Collections department, to share her memories of Garden’s most famous work, *Annie On My Mind*.

“I was in college when “Annie On My Mind” was published in 1982. And I think the book had been out for several years before I read it. By then I was an adult, with a lesbian partner and a mortgage. Yet, to this day, it remains one of the books I

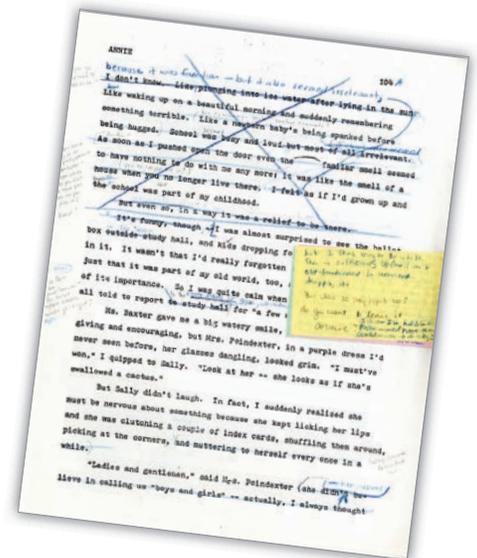
pull off the shelf and re-read on a rainy weekend.

The story of two young girls trying to find themselves and imagine a relationship with each other speaks of the time. In the days before the internet made information accessible and “Ellen” brought a representation of lesbians into every home, coming out was hard, scary, risky and often heartbreaking. I will always remember the isolation, the fear and the loneliness of feeling like I was the only one. Nancy Garden captured that feeling beautifully.

Despite all of that, the word that I associate most with the book is “gentle.” It tells a real story, a hard story and a true story. But it does so

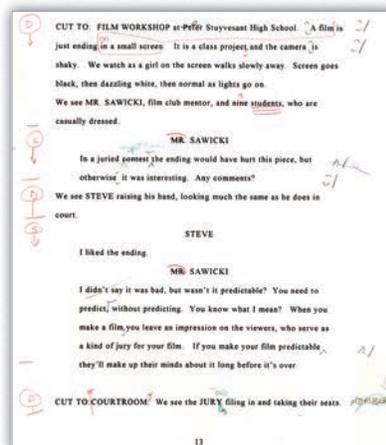
with a gentle voice of love and hope that speaks to readers of all ages.”

– Lisa Vecoli, Curator, Tretter Collection in GBLT Studies, University of Minnesota Libraries



Award-winning author and former National Ambassador for Children’s Literature, Walter Dean Myers died on July 1, at the age of 76. With modern classics including Printz Award-winning *Monster* and Caldecott Honor book *Harlem* (illustrated by his son, Christopher) to his name, Myers will be truly missed in the world of children’s literature. He impacted many children by striving to give urban and African American children an accurate and sympathetic representation in literature.

In a March 15th *New York Times* op-ed, Myers wrote that his work was meaningful to many because “they have been struck by the recognition of themselves in the story, a validation of their existence as human beings, an acknowledgment of their value by someone who understands who they are. It is the shock of recognition at its highest level.”



Curator Lisa Von Drasek expressed her own thoughts on Myers’s passing on the website *EarlyWord*:

I’ve been trying to write something but...

I am a reader not a writer.

I have read Walter Dean Myers.

I have experienced the responses of children and young adult readers as they hear, read and ponder his words and stories.

I have been privileged to share meals, as well as short and long chats with Christopher [Myers’s son who illustrated many of his father’s books] and Pops and hear them talk to audiences about their art and relationship.

You know I loved that man like a rabbit loves to run.

Goodbye, Mr. Walter Dean Myers. Goodbye.



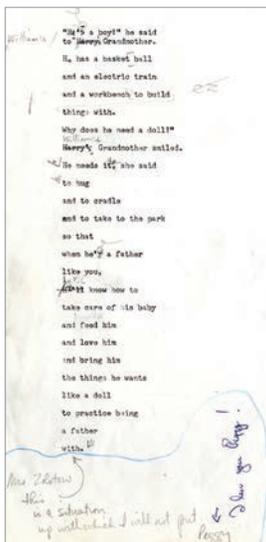
## We Remember

### Children's authors and illustrators who passed in 2013 and 2014

**Frances Foster** (June 3, 1931-June 8, 2014): Influential children's book editor, Foster began her career at Scribner's in the early 1950s and retired from Farrar, Straus, and Giroux in 2013.

#### Charlotte Zolotow

(June 26, 1915-November 19, 2013): Editor and author of over seventy picture books, including *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present* and *William's Doll*.



**E.L. Konigsburg** (February 10, 1930-April 19, 2013): Two-time Newbery Award winning author of *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and *The View From Saturday*.

**Barbara Park** (April 21, 1947-November 15, 2013): Author of the bestselling Junie B. Jones series.

**Barbara Robinson** (October 24, 1927-July 9, 2013): Children's book writer best known for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

**Ned Vizzini** (April 4, 1981-December 19, 2013): Young adult fiction writer. His novel *It's Kind of a Funny Story* was adapted into a film in 2010.

**Pauline Clarke** (May 19, 1921-July 23, 2013): English writer best known for *The Twelve and the Genii*.

**Erik Blegvad** (March 3, 1923-January 14, 2014): Artist and illustrator of over 100 books for children, including *Bed-Knob and Broomstick* by Mary Norton, and works by Lenore Blegvad, Charlotte Zolotow, and others.



**Fredrick McKissack** (August 12, 1939-April 28, 2013): Writer, who, along with his wife, Patricia McKissack, wrote works on African American history. They won the Coretta Scott King Author Award in 1995 for *Christmas in the Big House*, *Christmas in the Quarters*.

**Bernard Waber** (September 27, 1921-May 16, 2013): Author and illustrator of works including *Lyle*, *Lyle, Crocodile*, *The House on East 88th Street*, and *Ira Sleeps Over*.



**Carol Carrick** (May 20, 1935-June 6, 2013): Children's book writer and author of books including *Patrick's Dinosaurs*.

**Marc Simont** (November 23, 1915-July 13, 2013): Acclaimed illustrator and winner of the 1957 Newbery Medal for *A Tree is Nice*.



**Holly Meade** (September 14, 1956-June 28, 2013): Author and illustrator best known for her woodblock printing technique. Illustrated books include *Hush! A Thai Lullaby* by Mingfong Ho, and works by David Elliott, such as *On the Farm* and *In the Sea*.

**Lloyd Moss** (November 16, 1926-August 3, 2013): Classical radio host and author of the Caldecott honor book *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!*

**Nick Cardy** (October 20, 1920-November 3, 2013): Comic book artist best known for his work at DC illustrating *Aquaman* and *Teen Titans*.

**Ann Jonas** (1932-September 29, 2013): Author and illustrator known for her bold graphic design in books such as *Round Trip*.

**Eric Hill** (September 7, 1927-June 6, 2014): Author and illustrator of the beloved *Spot* series.

**Kate Duke** (August 1, 1956-April 20, 2014): Author and illustrator known for works such as *The Guinea Pig ABC* and *Ready for Pumpkins*.





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Coming soon to CLRC. Patricia Keeler's donation of *Drumbeat in Our Feet*.